

What is claimed is:

1. A starter comprising:

a motor for generating a rotational force;

5 a rotary output shaft being driven by said motor;

an electromagnetic switch for ON/OFF controlling electric power supply to said motor;

a pinion shift member engaged with said rotary output shaft via a helical spline coupling so as to shift in an axial direction on said rotary output shaft, with a pinion gear selectively engaging with a ring gear of an engine when said pinion shift member shifts in a direction departing from said motor;

a rotation restricting member having an engaging portion extending in a direction crossing with a rotational direction of said pinion shift member, for restricting the rotation of said rotation restricting member by engaging with an engaging portion of said pinion shift member; and

15 an actuating means for actuating said rotation restricting member by utilizing a magnetic force generated from said electromagnetic switch,

wherein said actuating means has a rod portion rotating in response to the magnetic force of said electromagnetic switch and an actuating arm formed at a distal end of said rod portion so as to swing about an axis of said rod portion when said rod portion rotates, and

said rotation restricting member is assembled with said actuating arm and is movable together with said actuating arm.

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2. The starter in accordance with claim 1, wherein said rotation restricting member includes a first bent portion and a second bent portion which are substantially parallel to each other and have coupling holes through which said rotation restricting member is assembled with said actuating arm of said actuating means, and said engaging portion of said rotation restricting member is provided on said first bent portion.

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3. The starter in accordance with claim 2, wherein said rotation restricting member is shiftable in a longitudinal direction of said actuating arm and is not rotatable about an axis of said actuating arm.

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4. The starter in accordance with claim 3, wherein a stopper is provided on said actuating arm so as to be positioned between said first bent portion and said second bent portion, and a return spring is provided for resiliently urging said rotation restricting member.

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5. The starter in accordance with claim 4, wherein said return spring is disposed between said stopper and said second bent portion to give a predetermined initial resilient force to said rotation restricting member when said first bent portion is brought into contact with said stopper.

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6. The starter in accordance with claim 1, wherein said rotation restricting member is subjected, in its manufacturing process, to a heat treatment to assure a predetermined hardness for said engaging portion.

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7. The starter in accordance with claim 1, wherein said engaging portion of said pinion shift member has a plurality of recessed portions provided along its radially outer periphery, and said engaging portion of said rotation restricting member enters into one of said recessed portions to restrict the rotation of said pinion shift member, and said engaging portion of said rotation restricting member has at least one chamfered face for smoothly guiding the engagement between said rotation restricting member and said pinion shift member.

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8. The starter in accordance with claim 1, wherein said actuating means has a connecting means intervening between said rod portion and said actuating arm to detachably connect said rod portion and said actuating arm.

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